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Looking ahead: Summer offerings for all ages

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LOOKING AHEAD: SUMMER OFFERINGS FOR ALL AGES

Although many might think that the pace at Furman eases during the summer, the truth is the campus barely has time to catch its breath between the end of school and the start of the "summer programs" season.

From music and sports camps to special seminars and activities, the Office of Camps and Conferences brings as many as 10,000 visitors to Furman each summer.

This year, the Alumni and Admissions offices are doing their part to keep the summer busy by offering several programs that we believe will be of interest to Furman graduates and/or their children. Quick synopses of these programs follow.

> WHAT'S CALLING YOU NOW?

The Lilly Center for Theological Exploration of Vocation and the Alumni Association are offering the second Lilly Alumni Retreat July 24-27. The retreat's theme will once again be "What's Calling You Now?"

This weekend event, for alumni who graduated between 1975 and 2000, is an invitation to revisit important dreams, explore the realities of adult life that get in the way of true calling, and share with others life's wisdom accrued across several decades of experiences.

James Mason ’86, a school district administrator in Raymond, Miss., attended the first "What's Calling You Now" retreat in the summer of 2006. He writes that it provided him "the opportunity to step off the often relentless treadmill of life and reconsider what really matters most. I found it amazing how the retreat helped to awaken some of my deepest passions about life, family and faith.

"Just as the Furman experience began a transformative journey within me over 25 years ago, the Lilly retreat began another subtle yet seismic shift in how I will view and pursue my vocational calling during the second half of my life."

We have lined up several Furman professors who will offer their perspectives on the topic "Dreaming Dreams, Living Lives." You'll benefit from the tutelage of Charles Brewer, William R. Kenan Professor of Psychology; Jim Edwards, longtime professor of philosophy; Linda Bartlett, associate academic dean; and Elizabeth Smith, associate professor of political science.

The staff of the Lilly Center — Elaine Nocks, professor of psychology; David Bost, professor of Spanish; and Ann Quattlebaum, project coordinator — will lead other seminars and exploratory sessions.

You'll live in Furman's North Village apartments and have plenty of free time to reflect on your experience. Cost for the program is $250, plus $15.25 if you want the university to supply bedding and towels.

For more information or to register, visit www.furman.edu/lilly or call (864) 294-2511. You can also go to www.furman.edu/fu mag/index-fall06.html and click on the link to read an account of the 2006 retreat by Kevin Spears ’92.

> PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

The Admissions Office is developing a free "Planning for College" seminar for alumni and prospective students on Friday, June 20.

The program will include a primer on selecting a college and will feature tips for students and parents about various aspects of the college search, from what to look for during campus visits to how to build a list of potential colleges. It will also offer advice about preparing applications and helpful instruction on paying for college, including how to search for financial aid and scholarships. A panel of Furman students will be on hand to offer their perspectives about college life.

For those who are considering applying to Furman, there will be an opportunity to learn about the university's programs. More information is available by e-mailing laur.a.simmons@furman.edu or by calling the Alumni Office (1-800-PURPLE3) or the Admissions Office, (864) 294-2034.

> SUMMER SCHOLARS

Alumni with rising juniors or seniors in high school, take note: Furman offers a Summer Scholars program of one-week enrichment classes for your students.

The courses are taught by Furman faculty and staff and typically include a variety of learning experiences, ranging from lectures and small-group discussions to debates, laboratory work, field trips, group and individual projects, and other activities. This year's programs are scheduled July 15-21 and 22-28.

Cost for the one-week courses is $800, which covers room, board, field trips and other fees. Students may participate for two weeks; those taking two classes receive a discount of $300.

Summer Scholars live in Lakeside (women's) Housing and have access to all university facilities. They also receive group and individual counseling from Admissions representatives and students.

This year's classes will include such topics as global information systems, ecology and environmentalism, languages (French and Spanish), leadership, acting, writing about films and advertising design. For the full list, visit www.furman.edu/summerscholars.

Deadline for applications is June 15. For additional information, e-mail jean.adams@furman.edu or call Jean at (864) 294-3231.

— TOM TRIPLITT ’76

The author is director of the Alumni Association.